(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to encourage the use of the wireless local loop system so as to improve the telephone services in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in collaboration with M/s Analog Devices Inc., USA has taken up development of wireless local loop system based on the Digital Enhanced Cordless Technology standard.

(c) and (d). Telephone communication is affected as compared to conventional wireline systems during bad weather conditions and hence reduces the dependence on the services of lineman.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Govt. has plans to introduce wireless local loop system in Telecom network. A generic specification giving requirements of such system, has already been prepared. Such of those wireless in local loop systems which broadly meet with the requirements, are subjected to field trial if they are offered by the companies. The system developed by IIT Madras is proposed to be tried in the Madras Telephone network.

Agitated Workers of Bulb Factories

2100. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Kanpur the agitation of workers of Miniature Bulb factories, is at its peak for their unattended long pending demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to stop the agitation and resolve the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) At present, no agitation of workers is going on in the Miniature Bulb Industries in Kanpur. The workers started an agitation w.e.f. 1.9.96 to press their demands which was subsequently resolved with the intervention of the Labour Department of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The workers were demanding fixation of piece rate wages on the basis of the scheduled minimum wages, and implementing the provisions of the Factory Act and various other labour laws.

(c) Following a bipartite meeting held on 19.9.96, it was agreed to refer the demands of the workers to the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Kanpur for an informal arbitration. After hearing both the parties, the Deputy Labour Commissioner gave his award on 10.10.96. Since then, there is no dispute between the concerned parties and production is going on smoothly.

Promotion of SC/ST

2101. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain proposals for promotion of selection grade officers working in Zonal Railways and Railway Board Office belonging to SC/ST Categories to Senior Administrative Grades are pending for the last 8 months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of such officers are likely to retire in near future with no other chance of further promotion are feeling disgusted and humiliated over unnecessary delay in their promotion;

(d) whether such officers have to suffer heavy monetary losses in case orders for their promotion are not issued by December, 1996;

(e) whether the Government propose to approve these proposals immediately; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Goa

2102. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open more telephone exchanges in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A new telephone exchange of C-DOT 256 is proposed to be opened at Armbol (Harmal), North Goa, before March, 97. In addition, the exchanges at Madgaon, Cansaulin, Verca, Sangol and Aladona are being expanded.

Corruption Complaints in Darbhanga and Ranchi

2103. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rampant corruption is existing in telephone offices in Darbhanga and Ranchi Telecom Units;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered during the last three years; and